

Docket No. AT9-99-100

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING A CENTRAL DICTIONARY AND GLOSSARY SERVER

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A method and apparatus provides a central dictionary and glossary server. An application executing on a client is able to access a local copy of a dictionary or glossary. A master dictionary or glossary is updated at a server, and the update to the master dictionary or glossary is served to the application on the client to update the local copy of the dictionary or glossary. A datastream may also be processed by automatically scanning a datastream and automatically detecting, in the datastream, a word that cannot be matched to a word in a dictionary or glossary. The unmatched word is identified as an acronym, and in response, data associated with the acronym, selected from a hierarchical set of glossaries, is inserted into the datastream in close proximity to the acronym. In another aspect of processing a datastream, in response to an indication that the unmatched word is a properly spelled new term, a dictionary or glossary may be updated with the new term, and the dictionary or glossary is a member of a hierarchically ordered set of dictionaries and/or glossaries. The system may also contain an organizational database comprising information for organizational units associated with a data processing system, and each glossary in the hierarchical set of glossaries is associated with an organizational unit.